

Lake and Peninsula Borough

*P.O. Box 495
King Salmon, Alaska 99613*

*Telephone: (907) 246-3421
Fax: (907) 246-6602*



August 2, 2004

Allen Kemplen, Area Planner
Central Region Planning
Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
P.O. Box 196900
Anchorage, AK 99519-6900

Subject: Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan Revision Comments

Dear Mr. Kemplen:

The purpose of this letter is to provide comment from the Lake and Peninsula Borough on the revision to the Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan. We thank the Department for their hard work and public meetings on this plan revision to comply with the judge's order to halt all work on the Iliamna Nondalton road until the economic costs and the benefits are considered in a plan revision.

We have reviewed the Technical Memorandum on Revised Cost and Effectiveness Measures and have the following recommendations:

On page 9, Table 1 we recommend the priority of the Nondalton road be placed to the top of the list instead of Pile Bay. The justification for this priority change is that travel from Williamsport to Pile Bay can occur today but cannot occur from Nondalton except when Six Mile Lake is frozen in the winter. In addition once completed the Iliamna to Nondalton road will be open year round where as the Williamsport Pile Bay road is only open in the summer.

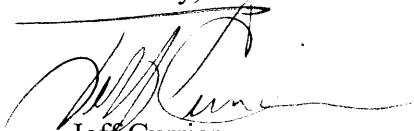
Better explanation and a stronger justification for the road from Iliamna to Nondalton is needed to strongly support this road and its need. The safety and human aspect is not discussed and should be addressed somewhere in this document. Their needs to be some discussion on the loss of life that has occurred and could occur in the future. Discussion on how most people attempt to drive to Iliamna from Nondalton in the winter to purchase fuel. Discussion on how in the summer many Nondalton residents travel by boat north up Lake Clark to Port Alsworth to purchase fuel as it is easier than hauling from Iliamna.

We completely support the upgrade of the Williamsport Pile Bay road and the concept that this very important corridor is critical to getting cheaper goods and services to the region. The Plan revision discusses the Pile Bay to Pedro Bay to Iliamna link of the road as an upcoming priority in the next 20 years. However, this plan revision does not discuss the large volume of cargo

barge traffic that will deliver on goods and fuel from Pile Bay to the lake communities. Presently this cargo travels by private barge from Pile bay to Pedro Bay, Iliamna/Newhalen, Kokhanok and Igiugig. We would like the plan to mention the need for barge landing facilities at each of these villages to accommodate the expected increase in cargo the upgrade of the Williamsport Pile Bay road will produce.

The Lake and Peninsula Borough is in total support of the plan revision and the road improvements this plan provides for. However we would like for the issues in this letter to be addressed in the final revised plan. We thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have questions please contact Marv Smith or me at 907-246-3421.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Currier', with a horizontal line drawn above it.

Jeff Currier
Borough manger

Cc: L&P Borough Assembly
L&P Borough Planning Commission
City of Nondalton
Nondalton Village Council
Pedro Bay Village Council
Iliamna Village Council
Newhalen Village Council
City of Newhalen
Kokhanok Village Council
Igiugig Village Council